

Montana School for the Deaf & Blind - Student Travel Costs

In fiscal year 2014, the expenditures in Student Services program went up a considerable amount due to the increased costs of student travel. The city of Great Falls no longer has a bus carrier that stops in town. With no bus service available we are chartering buses at greater costs to the school. In statute 20-8-121 it states:

"Transportation of students at school. (1) The school for the deaf and blind shall provide the transportation expenses allowed in subsection (4) for a residential student at the school for the deaf and blind who is a resident of the state of Montana if the student is conveyed to and from the student's residence by:

- (a) a scheduled air carrier as defined in 67-1-101;
- (b) charter with a commercial air operator as defined in 67-1-101;
- (c) a parent or guardian of the student, under an individual transportation contract with the school for the deaf and blind;

or

(d) other transportation arrangements, provided that the transportation is by a carrier of passengers certified by the public service commission and approved by the superintendent of the school for the deaf and blind, pursuant to rules adopted by the board of public education."

Because of this law, we are required to provide commercial transportation only for our students travel home to connect with their families. In fiscal year 2014 \$30,000 was moved from Personal Services due to vacancies in positions in that program to expenditures to cover this cost.

ADMINISTRATION	2012	2013	2014
Operating Expenses	\$ 92,690	\$ 102,229	\$ 115,535
Increase Amt Per Year		\$ 9,539	\$ 13,305
Increase Percentage		10.3%	13.0%

GENERAL SERVICES	2012	2013	2014
Operating Expenses	\$ 238,527	\$ 256,614	\$ 284,045
Increase Amt Per Year		\$ 18,087	\$ 27,432
Increase Percentage		7.6%	10.7%

STUDENT SERVICES	2012	2013	2014
Operating Expenses	\$ 109,897	\$ 114,639	\$ 164,450
Increase Amt Per Year		\$ 4,741	\$ 49,812
Increase Percentage		4.3%	43.5%

EDUCATION	2012	2013	2014
Operating Expenses	\$ 236,421	\$ 253,887	\$ 277,146
Increase Amt Per Year		\$ 17,466	\$ 23,259
Increase Percentage		7.4%	9.2%

Change without Travel 2014
\$ 14,150
6.7%

** TRAVEL	2012	2013	2014
Travel	\$ 91,973	\$ 96,881	\$ 132,543
Increase Amount per Year		\$ 4,909	\$ 35,662
Percentage Increase		5.3%	36.8%